

US - West German Relations

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report of growing anti-German feeling apparently prompted Adenauer's press conference statement on 10 March that he fears further damage to West Germany's reputation from the impending trial of Adolf Eichmann in Israel. In reply to a reporter's question, Adenauer also stated it was "quite possible" that Bonn might arrive at a kind of nonaggression pact with Poland but indicated that negotiations were dormant for the time being.

Adenauer has recently made cautious overtures to Warsaw in anticipation of a more flexible US policy toward Poland. He favors improving relations by undertaking a number of conciliatory moves such as extending economic aid and increasing trade, but he opposes diplomatic relations because the Poles continue to insist that Bonn first accept the Oder-Neisse line--something Bonn refuses to do chiefly because of domestic political considerations.

Adenauer's strong desire for continued close ties with the US was clearly indicated by his press conference statement that he did not believe the administration's review of policy toward Germany would lead to any basic changes, since the alliance is based on "political and geographic facts which remain the same."

Nevertheless, Adenauer's underlying fear of a possible decision by the United States to reduce its European commitments, including the withdrawal of US military forces in Europe,

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is a factor in prompting him to consider drawing closer to France in some kind of continental grouping.

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Sources:

[REDACTED] EMB BONN G-364, 16 Jan 61 (Conf No Further Dissemination); REUTERS BONN, 10 Mar 61.

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